What is Claimed Is:

1. In a system for distributed broadcast television programming through a cable distribution system, a method of mapping broadcast television programming comprising:

checking an input format of a received data stream;

if the input format is different from a current format of the received data stream, accessing a stored format table;

if the different format is recognized among said stored format tables, remapping the received data stream into an output data stream having a preconfigured output format as designated in said stored format table in association with the recognized different input format.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein if the different input format is not recognized among said stored format tables, then notifying an operator.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein if the different input format is not recognized among said stored format tables, then generating a new output format.

4. In a device receiving multiplexed, packetized input data streams and outputing other multiplexed, packetized data streams, an output data stream mapper comprising:

an interface with an input packetized data stream;

a packet processor configured to isolate certain packets and route them;

a memory retaining at least one stored format table, said stored format table having input program numbers and output program numbers, said memory further being configured to retain a current PAT;

a mapping processor configured to receive a packet from said packet processor, the packet being a current PAT from the input data stream, said mapping processor being

further configured to compare input program numbers in said current PAT to known program numbers in said stored format table;

said mapping processor being further configured such that if the input program numbers in the current PAT are the same as the input program numbers in the stored format table, then another data stream is output having output program numbers from the stored format table; and

said mapping processor being further configured such that if the input program numbers in the current PAT are not the same as the input program numbers in the stored format table, then another data stream is output having reassigned output program numbers.

5. The output data stream mapper of claim 4 wherein said mapping processor is further configured such that if the input program numbers in the current PAT are not the same as the input program numbers in the stored format table, then said mapping processor identifying another stored format table is found in said memory, said other stored format table having input program numbers that match the input program numbers in said current PAT, and another data stream is output having reassigned output program numbers, said reassigned output program numbers being retrieved from said other stored format table.

6. The output data stream mapper of claim 4 wherein said mapping processor is further configured such that if the input program numbers in the current PAT are not the same as the input program numbers in the stored format table, then said mapping processor is configured to generate new program numbers and then output another data

stream having reassigned output program numbers, said reassigned output program numbers being said newly generated program numbers.

7. The output data stream mapper of claim 6 wherein said newly generated program numbers are generated by random number generation.

8. The output data stream mapper of claim 6 wherein said newly generated program numbers are generated by incrementing numbers.

9. The output data stream mapper of claim 4 wherein said mapping processor is further configured to receive a packet from said packet processor, the packet being a current PAT from the input data stream, said mapping processor being further configured to compare input PMT PIDs in said current PAT to known PMT PIDs in said stored format table;

said mapping processor being further configured such that if the input PMT PIDs in the current PAT are the same as the input PMT PIDs in the stored format table, then another data stream is output having output PMT PIDs from the stored format table; and

said mapping processor being further configured such that if the input PMT PIDs in the current PAT are not the same as the input program numbers in the stored format table, then another data stream is output having reassigned output PMT PIDs.

10. The output data stream mapper of claim 9 wherein said mapping processor is further configured such that if the input PMT PIDs in the current PAT are not the same as the input PMT PIDs in the stored format table, then said mapping processor is configured to generate new PMT PIDs and then output another data stream having reassigned output PMT PIDs, said reassigned output PMT PIDs being said newly generated PMT PIDs.

11. The output data stream mapper of claim 10 wherein said newly generated PMT PIDs are generated by random number generation.

12. The output data stream mapper of claim 10 wherein said newly generated PMT PIDs are generated by incrementing numbers.

13. The output data stream mapper of claim 4 wherein said mapping processor is further configured such that if the input program numbers in the current PAT are not the same as the input program numbers in the stored format table, then said mapping processor is further configured to output another data stream is output having reassigned output PIDs within the PMTs.

14. The output data stream mapper of claim 13 wherein said reassigned output PIDs within the PMTs are newly generated by said mapping processor.

15. The output data stream mapper of claim 14 wherein said newly generated output PIDs within the PMTs are generated by random number generation.

16. The output data stream mapper of claim 14 wherein said newly generated output PIDs within the PMTs are generated by incrementing numbers.

17. The output data stream mapper of claim 4 wherein said packet processor is further configured to re-timestamp output packetized data streams.

18. The output data stream mapper of claim 4 wherein said mapping processor is further configured for error correction.

19. The output data stream mapper of claim 18 wherein said error correction is by repeated unrecognition of a single input program number.

20. The output data stream mapper of claim 18 wherein said error correction is by unrecognition of at least two different input program numbers.